

We claim:

1. An apparatus for non-invasively treating cardiac irregularities via vagal stimulation comprising a vibration member having a size and shape sufficient to stimulate the vicinity of the vagal nerve.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, including a motor operably connected to the vibration member.
3. The apparatus according to claim 2, including means for operating said motor at variable speeds.
4. The apparatus according to claim 1, including a housing from which said vibration member extends, and further including handgrips on said housing.
5. The apparatus according to claim 1, including at least one display indicative of operation of the apparatus.
6. The apparatus according to claim 5, in which the display comprises one or more lights indicative of operation of the apparatus.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1, including a display indicating the rate of vibration.
8. The apparatus according to claim 7, in which the display includes a read-out

of the rate of vibration.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, including vibratory means for stimulation of carotid and sinus body afferent nerves located at bifurcation of carotid artery.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, in which the vibration member includes a vibration tip.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, in which the vibration tip measures approximately one-half inch wide by one-quarter inch deep and one inch long.

12. A method for non-invasively treating cardiac irregularities via stimulation in a target zone comprising afferent nerves of the carotid body and sinus on the right or left side of the human neck, comprising the steps of:

providing a device shaped to contact the neck in the vicinity of the target zone;

applying pressure in the vicinity of the target zone to cause nerve stimulation.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the device includes a vibration member, and said pressure can be applied with the vibration member of the device turned on.

14. The method according to claim 12, including a vibration member, and in which the step of applying pressure includes moving the vibration member along at least a portion of the target zone located centrally between an area starting just below the angle of the jaw below the ear to a region of the clavicular notch at the top of the sternum.

15. The method according to claim 12, including target zone stimulation using vibration when applying pressure.

16. A method for non-invasively treating atrial irregularities via nerve stimulation, comprising the steps of:

applying pressure in the vicinity of a target zone comprising afferent nerves of the carotid body and sinus with a device; and

maintaining pressure for a period of time sufficient to reduce the atrial arrhythmia.

17. The method according to claim 16, including target zone stimulation using vibration when applying pressure.